

*Teamsters Industrial and Allied Workers, Greater Newark Area,  
New Jersey Public Employees and Health Care Facilities,  
Identical Jurisdiction as that of Joint Council No. 73,  
Local Union No. 97*



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Affiliated with  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS  
TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 73



**John J. Gerow**  
President

July 8, 2011

**Maria S. Perez**  
Secretary – Treasurer

Governor Chris Christie  
State of New Jersey  
125 West State Street  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

You may not think it is a crisis, but I do and so do all the unions who represent the working men and women at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey. I can only speak for those men and women who Teamster Local 97 represents. The last wage increase for those people was July 1, 2007. It represented a 2.5% increase in salary. It was 1% less than raises received by other state workers at the time.

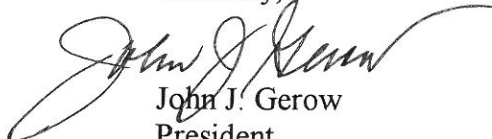
Since July 1, 2007 there has been a wage freeze at U.M.D.N.J. In May of 2010, 1.5% of wages was deducted starting July 1, 2010 to cover the legislated cost of contribution to their medical benefits. Starting in October 2011 a four step program (again legislated) goes into effect. Along with that there will be an increased cost to their pension.

This is not a letter sent to you to deal with any of that. However, President William Owen at U.M.D.N.J. has ignored the rank and file working men and women. He has said time and time again that he has no money for a wage increase because the state has depleted his budget; \$76 million in 2011's budget and 15% less dollars in 2012's budget.

The crisis is until you send some cash to President Owen earmarked for raises for these workers, they are not going to be able to survive. Survive means food, fuel, rent or mortgage payments, clothing, schooling, etc. You know what I mean. Have a heart.

Please respond, even if its to tell me to go to hell.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Gerow  
President

JJG/td  
#97, I.B.T.